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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/688,607	10/17/2003	Kuk Tae Hong	2080-3-188	2421
35884	7590	09/21/2004	EXAMINER	
LEE, HONG, DEGERMAN, KANG & SCHMADEKA, P.C. 801 SOUTH FIQUEROA STREET 14TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90017			WELLS, KENNETH B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2816	

DATE MAILED: 09/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/688,607

Applicant(s)

HONG ET AL.

Examiner

Kenneth B. Wells

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Am

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 9-16 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4,6,7 and 17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3,5 and 8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 October 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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1. Applicant's election of species A, corresponding to Fig. 3 is acknowledged, and claims 9-16 directed to species B (fig. 4) are thus withdrawn from consideration by the examiner.

2. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

3. The drawings are objected to because Figs. 1 and 2 should be corrected to read "prior art" if this is in fact correct. If they are not prior art, then applicant should point out in the specification where they are derived from (i.e., one or more copending applications?) Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for

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consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

4. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: there are numerous grammatical errors throughout the specification, all of which should be corrected in response to this action. Appropriate correction is required.

5. Claims 1-8 and 17 are objected to because of the following informalities: in claim 1, it is incorrect to recite the input signal on lines 4 and 8, i.e., it is the output signal that has its duty cycle maintained and it is the output signal that is forwarded to the outside of the IC. Note the same problem on line 7 with regard to the recitation of the enable signal. Note also the lack of antecedent basis throughout the claims (e.g., "the second inverter" in claim 5, a "third PMOS transistor" in claim 7, because no first or second PMOS transistors in claim 2

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from which claim 7 depends, etc). Appropriate correction is required.

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Coughlin, Jr et al.

As to claim 1, note Fig. 2, where the recited "input signal" and "enable signal" are received on lines 202 and 203, respectively; the recited "first and second level shifters" read on the respective upper and lower circuits between the input and enable signals and circuit stage 207; and the "output driving unit" reads on the combination of circuit stages 208 and 209. As to the recited duty ratio maintenance, see column 9, lines 1-15.

As to claim 2, the splitting unit is the node which splits the input signal on line 202 so that this signal is supplied to the gates of FETs 271 and 268; the sense amplifier is the

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combination of FETs 267 through 271; and the delay compensating unit is the combination of FETs 290 and 291.

As to claims 4 and 6, the recited first PMOS and NMOS transistors read on FETs 267 and 268, respectively; and the recited second PMOS and NMOS transistors read on FETs 266 and 269, respectively.

As to claim 7, the recited third PMOS and NMOS transistors read on FETs 290 and 291, respectively.

As to claim 17, note the discussion of NAND and NOR gates on line 55 of column 8 and line 5 of column 9.

7. Claims 3, 5 and 8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.


8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kenneth B. Wells whose telephone number is (571)272-1757. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy P. Callahan,

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can be reached at (571)272-1740. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Kenneth B. Wells
Primary Examiner
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September 17, 2004